



State of Arizona

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Governor Brewer Requests Federal Disaster Assistance for Wildfire Victims in Apache, Cochise Counties

Governor Makes Separate Requests on Behalf of Wallow, Monument Fire Survivors

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today sent disaster declaration requests to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The letters ask the federal agency to assist residents and businesses in Apache and Cochise counties in their recovery from the devastating Wallow and Monument fires.

Governor Brewer's letters to SBA Director Alfred Judd request an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Declaration for Apache and Cochise county businesses, as well as a Physical Disaster Declaration to provide loans to Cochise County homeowners who suffered property damage.

"The Wallow and Monument fires have charred nearly 570,000 acres and damaged or destroyed dozens of homes and businesses," said Governor Brewer. "I am hopeful the Small Business Administration will be able to lend a helping hand to affected residents and business owners in parts of Arizona affected by these destructive fires. The State of Arizona looks forward to working with the SBA as recovery efforts continue in Apache and Cochise counties."

Last week, the SBA joined Apache and Cochise counties and the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) as on-field Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted to determine the magnitude of the damage caused by the Wallow and Monument fires.

The PDA process is the first step in determining eligibility for federal assistance. Neither Apache nor Cochise County reached the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) thresholds necessary to qualify for federal disaster assistance, but the process did indicate that the counties may qualify for SBA assistance.

If approved, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million each would be made available to small businesses to help pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that would otherwise go unpaid due to the wildfires. These loans would be available to businesses, regardless of property damage, that were economically impacted by the fire.

For qualifying homeowners in Cochise County, a Physical Disaster Declaration would enable the disbursement of property damage loans of up to \$200,000 each for the repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed real estate. Loans of up to \$40,000 each would be available for eligible homeowners and renters to restore or replace clothing, furniture, vehicles and other items damaged or destroyed by the fires.

Small-business owners impacted by the Wallow and Monument fires can download the Economic Injury Worksheet at www.azein.gov. Completed forms can be taken to the local Individual Assistance Service Center or emailed to recovery@azdema.gov. ADEM Recovery officials will ensure that these forms are submitted directly to SBA for evaluation and subsequent response.

Apache County residents and business owners may visit the Individual Assistance Service Center in Eagar at Round Valley Public Library, 179 S. Main St., or call (602) 926-7261. In Cochise County, visit the Individual Assistance Service Center in Sierra Vista at the Cochise County Foothills Complex, 4001 E. Foothills Dr., or call (520) 221-0160.

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